

Colleges to enrol students only on GPA marks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Colleges will enrol students into class XI on the basis of their GPA (grade point average) marks without taking any written test, education board officials said.

However, the authorities of different colleges may judge students' quality viva voce if there are more students in the race against limited number of seats, they added.

A record of 8,597 examinees scored the highest GPA 5 after their fourth subject marks was counted with their total marks. Pass percentage in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations rose to 48.03 percent from that of previous year's 38.6 percent.

Admission seekers would have to apply in prescribed form. Colleges would not charge more than Tk 50 including Tk 10 for admission form

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Caretaker govt not a violation of constitution Says attorney general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Hasan Arif yesterday said the provision of caretaker government does not violate any part of the constitution.

"It's a part of the constitution now," said the AG, defending the caretaker government provision at the hearing of a writ against the 13th amendment before the larger bench of the High Court.

He brushed aside the petitioner's argument that the caretaker government is "not people's representative" and "undemocratic".

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No separate pay structures for police, bankers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the services in police, nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) and the central bank greatly differ from that in the administration, the new pay commission will not shape separate pay structures for them, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday.

At a meeting with the commis-

sion members at the planning ministry, Saifur however said the bank employees might get some additional facilities.

"There is no scope for subgrouping within the government pay structure," Saifur told newsmen after the meeting, adding, "But the pay is much higher in the private banks and, as a result, good bankers are

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Civil servants not willing to appear in court

SC to hear their petition in court contempt case for army non-deployment Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The four top government officials, facing contempt of court charges for violating court orders to deploy army for Dhaka-10 by-poll, are unwilling to appear in person in the

High Court and yesterday sought a stay on its appearance order.

Their lawyer told court public interest would suffer if the four holding important public offices appear before it leaving behind their

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RAYERBAZAR GUNFIGHT 20 picked up for 'ties' to Mujibar's gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces yesterday picked up 20 people including an alleged operative of 'Galakata' Mujibar's gang in Rayerbazar area that killed a police constable and three others on Monday.

However, the joint forces team of paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles, Rapid Action Battalion, special police team Cobra, Detective Branch of Police and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) failed to nab the ringleader till 7:30pm yesterday night.

The team started a combing operation in Rayerbazar area after the Monday gunfight and picked up alleged gangster Nurunnabi and 19

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Limited TU in EPZs from Nov 1, 2006

UNB, Dhaka

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed a bill allowing limited trade unionism (TU) in the exclusive export processing zones (EPZs) from November 1, 2006.

Workers in the EPZs enterprises will be entitled to enjoy the right to association but without any affiliation with political parties or their labour fronts until October 31, 2008.

The Trade Association and Industrial Relations Bill, 2004, placed in the House on July 4, was passed in an amended form.

Two amendments moved by Kader Siddiqui of Krishak Samik

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Rivers around Dhaka swell significantly

STAR REPORT

Floods threaten to swamp lowlands in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj in 72 hours as three rivers recorded a significant rise, the latest weathercast said yesterday, basing the forecast on a low in rains and run-off.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Dhaka said the Buriganga, Shitalakha and Turag swelled by 15cm, short of the danger mark, and would surge further if rain pelts down on the centre of

Bangladesh in three days.

Earlier, the forecasting centre said the floods swamping fresh areas in northern and northeastern districts might inundate low-lying areas in and around the capital and the port city in 48 hours.

Waterborne diseases are spreading fast in 25 districts because of flooding that killed at least 35 people in six days and stranded close to three million in the north and northeast.

The fast-rising floods closed hundreds of educational institu-

tions and forced thousands of villagers to move to safety or live on their own without food and shelter.

Although officials identified Sylhet, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Sirajganj as the worst-hit by the severest flooding since 1988, when two-thirds of Bangladesh was submerged, the government failed to rescue marooned people or provide them with food, drinking water and medicine.

Fresh areas in Manikganj, SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

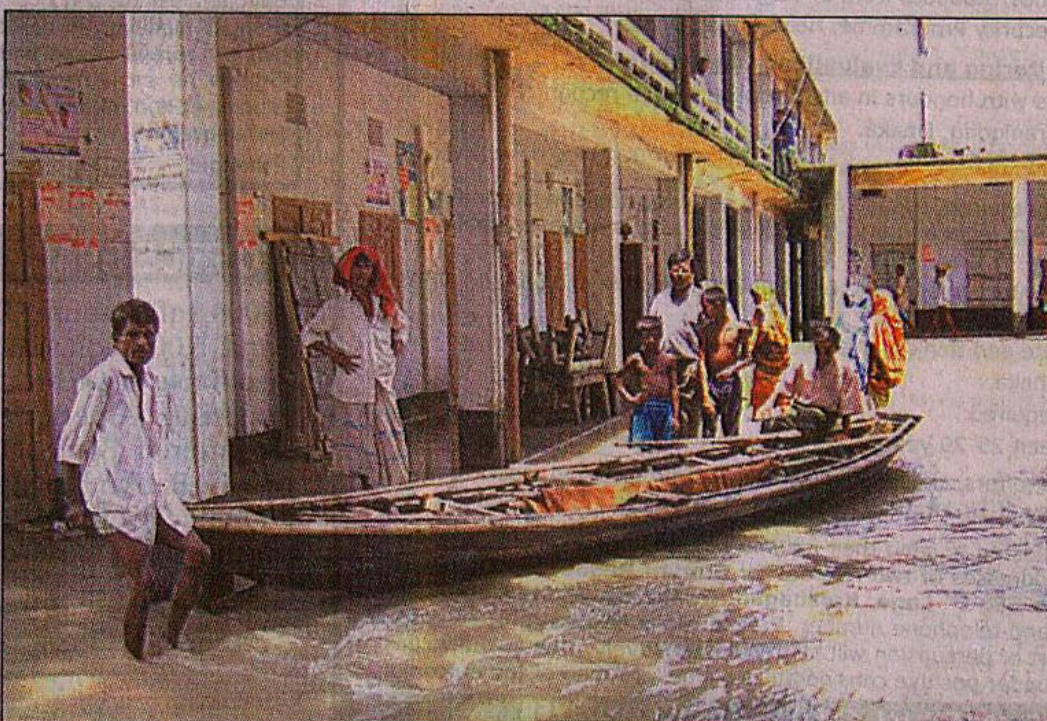


PHOTO: STAR

Visitors use boat as the only means to reach Phulchhari Upazila Parishad office after floodwaters from the Brahmaputra submerged its courtyard two days ago.

2 robbers killed in shootout with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two robbers were killed and two others bullet-hit in a shoot-out with police after robbers looted jewellery shops at Najumiah Hat in Hathazari Upazila while mobile phone sets reportedly worth about Tk 7 lakh were looted from two shops at city's Shulok Bohar area yesterday.

The two who died on the spot could not yet be identified. The firefight lasted for an hour from 2.15am to 3.15am at Najumiah Hat in Burishar area on the Chittagong-Kaptai Road. The injured who were identified as Alamgir and Ripon, were undergoing treatment in critical condition at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and Police Hospital.

Both sides traded about 300 rounds SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

BDR rescues 76 from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Saikhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel rescued 76 people, including 28 women and 16 children, while they were being trafficked to India through north Bhadiali frontier in Kalaroa upazila at midnight on Monday.

Tipped-off, a team of 12 Rifles Battalion rushed to the frontier and rescued them. The BDR men failed to nab the traffickers as they managed to escape, sensing presence of the paramilitary troops.

The rescued people hail from Narail, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Barisal districts. BDR later handed them to Kalaroa police. A case was filed in this connection.

Some of the rescued told police that the traffickers brought them from their respective villages with promise of jobs in India.

186 SC lawyers want fresh criminal benches

'Poor performance' of judges creating backlog, they say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and eighty-six lawyers of the Supreme Court have demanded of the chief justice to immediately reconstitute the criminal benches at the High Court drafting in senior judges for speedy disposal of pending cases.

They said that huge numbers of people are languishing in jails and pending cases are clogging courts because of poor performance of the judges.

The lawyers also urged the Supreme Court Bar Association to adopt their demand in its official resolution. The association has convened a general requisition meeting today to pass their resolution.

The lawyers on July 10 raised the demand expressing their grievance

about the present criminal benches, apart from Bench No. 25. "[We are] alarmed by their poor performance, which has resulted in a backlog of ever-increasing numbers of pending cases," they said in a resolution.

Blaming the judges of two out of three benches, they added scores of people are rotting in jail as on-trial prisoners without any chance of getting bail. If such criminal benches are allowed to continue in their present form, there is no prospect of reduction in the number of pending cases, they added.

Unless the situation is immediately addressed, people will totally lose confidence in the Supreme Court.

Tanjib-ul Alam, AKM Salimullah, Md Nurul Islam Sujon, KM Saifuddin Ahmed and 182 others signed the resolution.

Speaker rejects all opposition motions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar yesterday rejected adjournment motions of main opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers to hold discussions on new additions to Bangladesh Swadhinata Juddha-Dalilpatra, depicting former president Ziaur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence.

Sircar said the matter has been discussed in the House and there is no scope to hold a debate on it again.

The speaker also did not entertain a single adjournment motion moved by opposition lawmakers seeking adjournment of the proceedings to discuss law and order downside, massive rigging in Dhaka-10 by-poll and corruption in procurement of two F-28 aircraft.

The notices also demanded a general discussion on Chittagong arms haul, flood in the northeastern districts, activities of Bangla Bhai and his operatives in the northwest, death threat to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and

police atrocities on opposition activists.

Sircar said the House could not accept the notices as some of the issues are not contemporary and some others are sub judice.

The AL lawmakers criticised the speaker for turning down all the adjournment motions and said parliament would not be functional if problems facing the country are not discussed there.

"Tenure of the current parliament has not ended as yet and the matters will be discussed in the coming sessions," Sircar quipped.

He, however, said the House had unscheduled discussions on the issues of the adjournment motions during the points of order. Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan seconded the speaker, saying the issues will be discussed in next session.

Earlier, while dismissing the adjournment notices, the speaker said the issue of rigging in the

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Rohingya repatriation stalls

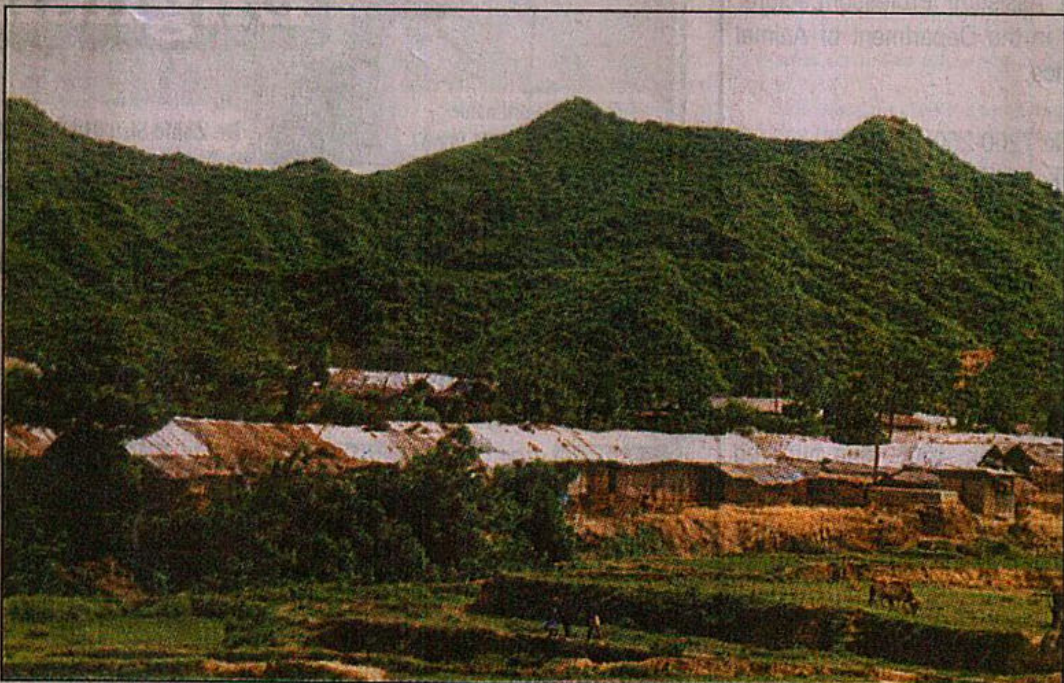


PHOTO: STAR

The long rows of Rohingya camps at Kutupalong of Ukhiya upazila, Cox's Bazar, house 8,091 officially recognised refugees.

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, back from Cox's Bazar

Repatriation of the last remaining Rohingya refugees has stalled for the last two months following a lull in the process since August last year.

The authorities say the refugees are not willing to go back right now and some officials involved with the process believe no further repatriation will take place.

The authorities repatriated 2,229 refugees between May and July last year, but the process slowed down unusually and after that, only 905 Rohingyas were sent back home between August and May. It screeched to a halt after 30 people of five families went back to their home in Myanmar on May 13.

Since 1992, 2,36,490 Rohingya refugees, who are Muslim by faith, were repatriated after they started fleeing across the border into Bangladesh in 1991 to escape repression by the Myanmar military junta.

Presently, 19,841 Rohingya 'officially recognised' refugees

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